

Public Health Reports

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Head, Public Health Service

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS & NOTES

Dr. Edward J. Sondik New NCHS Director

Edward J. Sondik, PhD, is the newly appointed Director of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At NCHS, Dr. Sondik will direct a program of statistical and information systems which guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people. NCHS is the Federal government's principal vital and health statistics agency, established almost forty years ago to monitor the nation's health.

In his position as NCHS Director, Dr. Sondik will also serve as senior advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on health statistics. He will provide the Secretary with technical and policy advice on statistical and health information issues and will serve on the HHS Data Council. This new council will oversee the development of efficient data collection strategies that enhance the analytical capabilities of HHS. In announcing Dr. Sondik's appointment, HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala said, "to get where we're going, we have to know where we've been. Dr. Sondik, NCHS, and the new Data Council will help us develop the blueprints for a healthier America." Secretary Shalala has charged the Council with developing a department-wide data collection strategy, including coordination of surveys and oversight of survey and general statistical analysis.

Dr. Sondik joins NCHS after a 20-year career at the National Insti-

tutes of Health. He began his NIH career as Chief, Program Analysis and Evaluation Branch at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, before moving to the National Cancer Institute in 1982. At NCI, he served as Associate Director of the Surveillance Program and was then appointed Deputy Director, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, in 1989. Most recently he served as Acting Director of NCI. He is a native of Connecticut and received his BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Connecticut and his PhD in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University.

Asthma Awareness Day: Planning Guide Issued

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) announced the availability of *Asthma Awareness Day: A Planning Guide*, a kit designed to encourage people to organize asthma awareness events in their communities. These events can help teach children and their families how to take control and manage asthma more effectively, thereby reducing the number of asthma-related hospitalizations and deaths.

Asthma is a serious respiratory disorder that affects an estimated 10 to 15 million people, 4 million of whom are children. Asthma claims more than 5000 lives in the United States each year. Despite advances in treatment and preventive care, asthma is on the rise.

The statistics are particularly grim

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When submitting your manuscript, help us by writing a thoughtful letter explaining why it belongs in *Public Health Reports* rather than elsewhere. For manuscripts that you wish to craft specifically for *Public Health Reports* we welcome and strongly encourage telephone or e-mail inquiries before you undertake or complete the writing. Our job is to help you produce manuscripts that we want to publish.

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Letters to the Editor. We strongly encourage you to submit letters. Brevity is a virtue; between submissions of equal merit we are certain to choose the shorter one.

News & Notes. This section includes brief news items, report synopses, and announcements. These are used and rewritten at the discretion of the editors. *500 word maximum.*

Feature Articles. Features, often solicited by the editors, gather together recent research from other sources to present the current status of a subject area and the implications for policy, programming, or future research directions. For features it is particularly important that you send a query letter with your idea, its relevance to our readers, and why you are the appropriate author. If in doubt, look at recent issues for examples. A synopsis and key words for use in secondary publishing and indexing should be included. *5000 word maximum.*

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Departments. *Overseas Observer, Public Health and Law, Minority Health Monitor, Information Technology, PHS Chronicles, Book & Film Reviews, and NCHS Data Line.* These are solicited pieces, for the most part, although we do welcome letters of inquiry with article ideas. *850–2500 words.*

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ive); (b) full names of all authors, including their graduate degrees; (c) a separate paragraph identifying authors' institutional affiliations during the course of the research (and current affiliations if different); (d) name, street address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address (if available) for reader correspondence; (e) word count of the text (inclusive of references) and the number of charts/figures.

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In Upcoming Issues

OUR AGING POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Samuel Korper

With our intense interest in institutional changes, it is easy to lose sight of major demographic shifts such as the aging of our citizens.

How will an older population affect public health?

MANAGED CARE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE OF TUBERCULOSIS

Paul K. Halverson, Glen P. Mays, et al.

How managed care plans interact with public health authorities can be critical for the success of tuberculosis control. What model should work best?

REVISING THE NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY

Floyd Fowler

How and why this critical source of health information was revised for the first time in over 30 years.

A COMPARISON OF PRENATAL CARE UTILIZATION INDICES: CLASSIFICATION OF THE ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE USE

Greg R. Alexander, Milton Kotelchuck

A careful review of how we measure the adequacy of prenatal care utilization.

